



Oakville Rangers Hockey Club 2024 Annual Meeting Executive Report – House League, U10 & Older

We are incredibly proud of our House League Hockey Program, which is the cornerstone of our club. House league hockey plays a crucial role in the development of young athletes and the broader hockey community. It provides an inclusive environment where players of all skill levels can learn the game, build confidence, and foster a love for hockey. House league hockey emphasizes participation, teamwork, sportsmanship, and fun, making it accessible to everyone. This foundation helps to cultivate lifelong fans of the sport and instills valuable life lessons such as discipline, perseverance, and camaraderie. Ultimately, house league hockey serves as the heartbeat of grassroots hockey, nurturing the next generation of players and fans.

To the thousands of Ranger House League Hockey Players, your parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends who come out to Oakville Rinks every week to play an amazing sport or to cheer you on while you play, thrive, and have fun, THANK YOU. It is you who make this a wonderful experience, and we're honoured you chose this sport and our club. There is nothing quite like the atmosphere in the rinks during the hockey season; it's all very inspiring.

To the hundreds of Volunteer Coaches, Coaching Staff, and Team Managers, we could not run a successful not-for-profit House League Hockey League without you. Saying thank you is not enough! Your commitment, dedication, and volunteerism are what make our program work, and our appreciation for you all for making a difference for the children of our community is never-ending.

As always, a **massive congratulations and thank you to the entire Oakville Rangers front office team as well as our Game Day Crew**. It is not an easy task running a hockey club our size; whether it's successfully enrolling an entire community of participants and volunteers, scheduling thousands of hockey games and making sure those games go off on time and every child is safe, or ensuring rosters and scoresheets are complete and accurate - you do it flawlessly every year!

A final thank you to all **Referees and Timekeepers** for your dedication in keeping our games fair, balanced, and an overall enjoyable experience for all players and coaches.

Season Highlights

Last season, the Rangers started our journey of transforming the House League Hockey experience for our players and parents, providing more playing options to suit the desires of the player. With a focus on growing the sport, increasing player engagement, and operational excellence, this past season, we continued on the journey. It was year two of our Advanced League test in partnership with Mississauga Hockey League (MHL), where we had 18 Rangers hockey teams between U10-U18 participate in the MHL, designed for players seeking a more competitive experience. Here in Oakville, we had over 50 teams across all age groups participating in our House League program. We also saw a resurgence of our



House League Roster Select Program, with teams across every age group. This year, we also welcomed over 50 new hockey players seeking to learn, develop, and grow their hockey skills in a safe space within our Accelerated Skills Development Program.

Advanced League – Highlights

After a 'rocky' year one (22/23) of our MHL Partnership, we, like most pro expansion teams, acclimatized ourselves to a more competitive group of teams. Year two registration for this program was overwhelming and astounding. We recognize that we had to make some difficult decisions, limiting the number of teams we entered into the MHL to ensure that our teams were equally competitive. This unfortunately meant that we could not find room for every child who registered, but this did force us to make changes to our House League program to ensure we provide more opportunities within our Home House League program.

In the 23/24 season, we had 15 very competitive hockey teams across the MHL Select and Rep A divisions. Many of our teams ended the year with winning records; in fact, 6 teams made it to the MHL Semi-Finals, and 4 teams moved on to the MHL Cup Finals. Congratulations to everyone who participated in this league this past year; you made us all very proud.

And finally, YES, the Advanced Test and Partnership with the MHL was a success. In February of 2024, the OMHA and GTHL approved the extension of this program, and we're back for another season in 24/25. We are all focused on continuing to improve this experience for everyone.

The Rangers "Home" House League Hockey Program

The backbone of our club is our Home House League Hockey Program, and it is our greatest priority! While we are a not-for-profit hockey program, this year we invested in new tools and features to support our journey of facilitating the best house league hockey program in North America. We also made some changes to processes that led to more balanced hockey divisions and incredibly competitive hockey games.

Over 50 hockey teams worth of players participated in over 1000 hockey games from October through to the end of March. Our House League Playoffs and Championship Weekend were EPIC. The buzz in the rinks for those two weeks of March was unlike anything we've seen in recent years. Almost every championship game was a nail-biter! Congratulations to all players, coaches, coaching staff, and families for another awesome season.

Our **House League Rostered Select Program** proved again to be an incredible experience for every player. We had Select Teams across 6 cohorts, who competed in over 100 exhibition games with other Select clubs from across the province. This program continued to flourish in the 23/24 Season, more importantly most if not every player and parent had a lot of fun, and saw a ton of progress throughout the season. We are excited for the 24/25 season as we have entered all of our Select Teams into the newly created Tri-County Select Hockey League.



The 23/24 Season also saw the Oakville Rangers host our very first House League Hockey Tournament for all cohorts in a very long time. **The SHOWDOWN in O'TOWN** was a blast for the Rangers and the other 70-80 teams who came into Oakville to face the best of the best in House League Hockey! A lot of FUN!

Looking Forward

As the league enters the new season, we are poised to build upon the successes of last season. We are committed to continuing to improve our House League experience.

We are excited to have Oakville Rangers Teams returning to the MHL for next season for our **Advanced Division Players**. We are committed to continuously enhancing our **Home House League program** for all participants, we will continue to thrive for the best House League Hockey Program in North America. Our **Rostered Select program** will be better than ever, and we are excited about the new Tri-County Hockey League! For the 23/24 Season the Oakville Rangers introduced a new role to support our Select Program, and we're excited to have Rich Harvey take on overall leadership for our Select Teams.

We're excited to make this upcoming season a fantastic one!

Again, to all players, parents, volunteers, staff and game officials, THANK YOU. Thank you for making the 23/24 Season a great one, and I look forward to seeing you all back at the rinks soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Comella".

Sebastien Comella

Oakville Rangers Vice President – House League

